

Ladakh, 1980

Statistics.

- Period: : 11th July to 14th September 1980 (66 days)
- Members : Harish Kapadia and Bhupesh Ashar
- Sponsors : "The Mountaineers," Bombay.
- Distances : Total trekking 520 Kms. By bus/truck 2090 Km.
- Heights : Crossed total 10 passes ranging between 10,500 ft. to 17,850 ft. Total ascent and descent : 1,10,900 ft.
- Areas : Bombay - Jammu (Train)  
Jammu - Srinagar - Leh (Bus)
- (I) Leh-Khardung La (18,360') to Nubra Valley.  
(Sumur, Panamik, Sasoma, Saser Kangri Base Camp on Phukpoche Glaciers, Deshkit, Khalsar). Along Shyok to Tangyar, Nebuk La (17,850 ft), Tangtse, Pangong Lake, Chushul and back to Leh.
- (II) Leh to Lamayuru, across Sir Sir La (16,320 ft), Shingi La (16,600 ft), Nerak La (15,966 ft) to Zangla, Padam in Zaskar. Then via Zunkul Gumpa, Umasi La (17,370 ft.) Athauli, Galahar to Kishtwar, Jammu.

Report

After usual preparations started on 11th July by Frontier Mail to Jammu where changed to a bus to reach Srinagar (284 km) on 13th July. Contacted J & K Police for permits to areas beyond Leh and for acclimatization climbed to Alpathar Lake above Gulmurg. The former was not at all encouraging while the later procedure was very helpful. After a rather comfortable two day bus journey (434 kms) reached Leh on 21st July. Again local officials were contacted to obtain the 'inner line' permits. Here due to the sympathetic attitudes the same were granted. Stayed five days at Leh to complete the procedures and arrange for onward transports. Visited few Gompas. (Monastries) This stay in particular was very essential to adjust to the extremely rarefied atmosphere of Ladakh.

- I) On 28th July left by a truck for Nubra Valley. In about 4 hours climbed up to Khardung La, (18,360 ft) the highest motorable road in the world ! The route on the other side cuts through a hanging glacier and it is a wonder. By late afternoon we alighted at Sumur having passed Khalsar on the way and crossed Shyok river. With our luggage on a donkey, left for Panamik (18 km) next day trekking along the Nubra river. Panamik to Sasoma (15 kms) was the similar terrain.



After a day of rest, we retraced back to Phukpoche, a village near Panamik. From here turned Eastwards along Phukpoche Lungpa to enter a gorge. Scree and exposed rock made proceedings very slow and quite dangerous. Our only porter needed help at many a places. Ahead it was all boulder-hopping along the true-left bank. We camped at Bakarwal. On 3rd August we reached the site of the old Saser Kangri Expeditions Base Camp (15,000 ft) and camped there for next two days. On the first day there, we climbed up to a high point (17,000 ft) on a nearby ridge to obtain the panoramic view of both, North and South Phukpoche glaciers and of Saser Kangri massiff. Towards west we could see the higher peaks of Saltoro range. Next day we proceeded on the South Phukpoche glacier for about 6 km. reaching a high point (18,500 ft) to obtain a close view of Saser Kangri - I and the surrounding peaks. It was a very imposing view of this highest peak in the Indian part of Great Karakoram. On 6th August we made a long retreat back to Panamik straight descending 4400 ft. in 20 km.

From Panamik we retraced back to Khalsar at the meeting point of Nubra and Shyok rivers. For a day we visited Deshkit, toward NorthWest, and its famous Gomba perched high on a mountain.

At Khalsar we could not get any porter. We had to carry heavy loads as we proceeded along the Shyok river bed toward Southeast. Days were very hot and walking on the boulders very tiring. At every bend in the river the route climbed up and down. Twice we camped along the river till we reached Tangyar village. Here at last a donkey could be arranged to take our loads. On 13th August we were on our way to cross Nebuk La (17,850 ft); the highest pass on our trek. The route climbed about 5250 ft. (8 hours) and descended about 3800 ft. to Itching village (4 hours) in 25 km. A very long and tiring day indeed. From the pass we could get a glimpse of Gasherbrum in the Karakoram. On 14th August we trekked to Tangste.

After a rest day we started for Pangong Lake. This saltish water lake is most beautifully situated. It is about 4 km. wide and perhaps one of the longest lake, at an average height of 14,500 ft. Proceeding along its' bank for 35 km. We reached Chushul, a historic place. Chushul at 14,300 ft. is a beautiful place with war monuments and also boasts of having the highest post office in the world ! We returned to Tangste by the same route and to Leh via Chang La (17,800 ft) after visiting Schukul Gomba.

- II) After a rest for two days, we proceeded to Lamayuru Gomba, 120 km. from Leh on the Srinagar road. On 23rd August with two Nepali porters trekked to Franjila via Prinkit La (10,500 ft) and Wanla. Route ahead is via a narrow gorge to Hanupatta. Now onwards practically everyday we had to cross a high pass. First was Sir Sir La (16,320 ft) to Phutoksar. On 26 August over Boumitse La (14,530 ft.) and Shingi La (16,600 ft) reached Yulchung. This was



a spectacular route and the decent was very steep and even more tiring than the ascent. Descending further we went down Cho Cho Bori La (13,200 ft) to cross river Zanskar. After the crossing climbed up to Nerak to camp under a giant tree, the only big tree we came across in this otherwise totally barren country. Starting early on 28th August we climbed steeply over Nerak La (15,966 ft) and descended over Pangot La (15,000 ft) to narrow Canyon with many towers. It was a magnificent site and for a change few birch trees. Route to Zangla lay over Namaste La (14,530 ft) a most gentle but very desceptive pass which descended steeply in a gorge to meet Zanskar river again. Zangla was a small place with about 20 houses and scarcity of water. On the way next day we met rGyalpo of Zangla, a land-lord. Crossing of Zanskar river was a scerry affair over a swinging rope bridge, luckily supported by steel wires. On the other bank a long tiring walk brought us to Karsha Gompa, preparing for Dalai Lama's visit next day. To beat the rush we started early and crossing the river again, - this time in a rubber inflated boat - reached Padam in about 3 hours. Padam is headquarters of Zanskar and is connected with Kargil by a 240 km. motorable road. We found the place depressing and proceeded to Sani Gompa. For next two evenings we were lashed by a sand-storm. Via Ating we stayed at Zumkul Gompa and with two nights in-between (One just 300 ft. below the pass as a porter got sick) crossed Umasi La (17,370 ft) to Padar area. We had to cover quite a few area on snow and Crevasses on both the sides. Passing Sumcham, Machail, Chishot, Athauli, reached Galahar on 7th September to catch a bus to Kishtwar.

We reached Jammu on 12th and Bombay on 14th September.

The Mountainers,  
72, Vijay Apartments,  
16, Carmichael Road,  
Bombay 400 026.

Harish Kapadia.



To, *Participants of*  
The Ladakh 1980 Expedition,  
C/o. The Mountaineers,  
72, Vijay Apartments,  
16, Carmicael Road,  
BOMBAY 400 026

We have examined the attached Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account The Ladakh Expedition for the period from 1st July 1980 to 25th September, 1980 with the books and vouchers as maintained by them and report that:

1. We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit;
2. The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of accounts maintained by them;
3. The receipts and disbursements are properly and correctly shown in the accounts;
4. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanation given to us the said Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account gives a true and fair view:
  - (a) in case of the Balance Sheet, of the State of Affairs of the expedition as at 25th September, 1980;
  - (b) in the case of Income and Expenditure Account, of the deficit for period ended on that date.



BOMBAY; 22 OCT 1980

For N.D. DAGA & CO.  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
*N. D. Daga*  
(N.D. DAGA)  
PROPRIETOR.

' THE LADAKH 1980 ' EXPEDITION  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 25TH SEPTEMBER 1980

LIABILITIES

ASSETS

Loans from Participants:		Cash on Hand	199.77
Shri Harish Kapadia	3,500.00	Deficit as per Income	
Shri Bhupesh Ashar	3,500.00	and Expenditure Account	6,800.23
	<u>7,000.00</u>		<u>7,000.00</u>

AS PER OUR REPORT OF EVEN DATE

FOR N. D. DAGA & CO.  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

*N. D. Daga*  
( N.D.DAGA )

*H. Kapadia*  
( LEADER )

*Bhupesh Ashar*  
( PARTICIPANT )



BOMBAY: 22 OCT 1980

BOMBAY: 27 OCT 1980





CENTRAL ASIA TRADE ROUTE  
TREKKING      Ladakh, 1980

Sponsored by  
The Mountaineers,  
72 Vijay Apartments,  
16, Carmichael Road,  
Bombay 400026

'The Mountaineers' is a registered association of mountaineers to promote and support activities for experienced climbers. In the past we have organised many expeditions and treks to remote parts of the Himalaya. One of the project this year is to trek across Ladakh.

THE AREA: It is intended to trek on the ancient Central Asia Trade Route in North Ladakh. This route once saw hectic trade traffic. Caravans from Srinagar/Kishtawar crossed to Leh and Karakoram Pass to Yarkand and Kashgar in Sinkiang. The route passes over the most inhospitable surroundings. The area is totally devoid of any vegetation, grey and the route full of gravel. The weather is extreme. Skeletons of many a dead mules of the caravans gave it a name of 'Skeleton Trail'. Most of the route is at high altitudes and for decades now out of use for trade traffic. There is an abundance of literature about it and it has a long geographical and political history.

- (1) At first there are three principal routes to Leh. One from Srinagar and Kulu are both motorable now. The third from Chamba-Kishtawar pass across Zaskar to Leh. This route crosses famous villages of Padam and Zangla and across many passes.
- (2) North of Leh, the principal route is over Khardung La to Panamik and then across the formidable Saser La (17,480 ft.) to the east to Shyok Valley at Murgo. It goes north across Depsang Plains and Daulat Beg Oldi to Karakoram Pass. Another route comes up from Tankse to Shyok to join the above route at Murgo.

THE PLAN: It is intended to follow the Central Asia Trade Route in two sections. At first North of Leh and then to South of Leh as under. A trek to the east to Pangong Tso Lake is also planned.

- (A) North of Leh; From Leh across Khardung La to Panamik. Cross Saser La to Murgo. Go south along Shyok river to Kataklik and Shyok to end at Tankse. This will complete a circuit over two routes. Total about 150 miles.
- (B) From Tankse to Pangong Lake via Spangmik, Mang to Chusul. 30 miles.
- (C) South of Leh; From Leh across Ruberang La to Padam. Then across Umasi La to the west to Kishtawar. 150 miles.

The area has been studied through the literature and also from the first hand informations. The team is deliberately small to avoid difficulties of taking large supplies over high passes and fording of difficult rivers. The team is well experienced to face the arduous trek.

Certain areas being restricted, we have applied for permits from the Government and it will be subject to that. However it is hoped to trek the major part of the route in any case.

EQUIPMENT is available with the association.

PORTERS and guides will be arranged as required locally and will have to be changed as per the region.

FOOD will be carried from Srinagar/Leh as nothing is available on the route. Details have been worked out based on the past experiences.

MEDICINES will be carried as required for the trek and for the high altitudes.



APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE:

July 11,	Dep. Bombay	Sept.
14-16	at Srinagar	1-8 across Umasi La to Kishtawar.
17-18	Travel to Leh by bus.	9 at Kishtawar
19-20	at Leh	10 To Jammu
21-27	Trek via Panamik, Saser La to Murgo.	13 Train to Bombay.
28-Aug 10	Trek South to Kataklik and Shyok and Tankse.	
Aug 11	Rest at Tankse.	
12-15	Trek to Chusul.	
16-17	at Leh.	
17-30	Trek to Padam/Zangla.	

BUDGET:

	Rs.
Transport (Train/bus)	2000
Food (Travel/Trek)	1800
Porters (plus food)	3200
Equipment	600
Photography	800
Medical	800
Insurance	300
Miscellaneous	300
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For 60 days trek and travel. Rs. 9800

MEMBERS:

Harish Kapadia : Age 34 yrs. Bussinessman Indian National  
 72 Vijay Apartments, Mountaineering Experience:  
 16 Carmichael Road, Training Courses, Basic and Advance, in 1964.  
 Bombay 400026 Organised and led about 10 expeditions.  
 Climbed 5 peaks in Himalaya. Extensive  
 trekking in all parts of Himalaya in past  
 20 years.  
 Extensive trekking in Western Ghats and  
 climbing at Pachmarhi.

Bhupesh Ashar, ; Age 24 yrs. Student (C.A.) Indian National  
 2/32 Juhu Sameep, Mountaineering Experience:  
 D.N. Nagar, Juhu- Climbing trekking to Dhaula Dhar, H.P..  
 Varsova Road, Rock climbing courses at Bombay.  
 Andheri West, Extensive rock climbing at Pachmarhi.  
 Bombay 400058 Extensive Trekking in the Western Ghats  
 for many years.

Both are members of 'The Mountaineers',  
and of 'The Himalayan Club.'

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NORTH LADAKH  
CNOT TO SCALE

- ==== Proposed Trek
- Central Asia Trade Route (Continuation)
- ▲ Peaks
- Passes

The MOUNTAINERS

CENTRAL ASIA TRADE ROUTE  
 TREKKING - LADAKH 1980

